

# EPA begins 24-hour surveillance at Bossert Manufacturing Corp. site

By TOM COCOLA  
For the Daily Press

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) yesterday began a 24-hour surveillance of the Bossert Manufacturing Corp. site in West Utica.

Joseph Rotola, EPA on-site coordinator, said the federal agency will use flood lights and security personnel to monitor the building.

The EPA also will authorize a complete clean-up of the site within the next month, he said.

Security at the site was under the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), but after several recent burglaries and trespassings, it was turned over to the EPA, which is better equipped for security, Rotola said.

An April test by the DEC found that PCBs and other acids were inside the Oswego Street building. PCB, or polychlorinated biphenyl, is a suspected cancer-causing substance that can irritate the throat and lungs. DEC officials said the PCBs in the building do not pose an imminent threat to the environment

or community health.

Rotola said the EPA conducted more tests yesterday.

A "clean-up action memorandum" should be issued next month, he said.

Bossert officials would have the option of doing their own clean-up or letting the EPA do the work, Rotola said. Either way, Bossert would pay for the clean-up, he said.

The building has been a cause of concern recently for some neighbors. Robert Luckina, of 1013 Knox St., said his three children were treated for irritated throats and burning eyes

after a bottle fell and broke while they were playing in the vacant plant.

Oneida County Legislator David Ashe, 25, and Council Majority Leader Roger Pal R-1, called for security improvements as were encouraged to hear about EPA involvement.

Ashe, who sent a letter to the DEC 1 week asking for better security, said yesterday he hopes the EPA can ensure clean-up of the site.

Rotola said it too soon to tell what clean-up will entail and how much it will cost.

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## Family's no stranger to tragedy

By SHIRLEY WILLIAMS  
For The Daily Press

MARCY — A fire that gutted the Tritten home at 5506 Woodlawn Place early Sunday — one more tragedy for the young family — was especially difficult for 14-year-old Tammy Tritten.

Tammy, the youngest of three sisters who lived in the house since their parents died, lost her puppy in the fire.

Tammy was walking to the store when she remembered she had left some food on the stove. She returned home only to find she had locked herself out of the house, said her sister-in-law, Mrs. Mark Tritten.

She tried to climb in the window but was forced back by the flames, Tritten said.

The fire broke out shortly before noon Sunday, and rekindled around 4 a.m. yesterday, said Maynard Assistant Chief John Messina.

"The fire started in the kitchen and



## Attorney S. M. Flemma is dead

### 30 years of service on Utica School Board

By AUDREY LEWIS  
For The Daily Press

Saverio M. Flemma, who came to Utica from Italy as a youth and went on to become prominent attorney and community leader died Sunday in Faxton Hospital.

Flemma served on the Utica Board of Education for 30 years and was its president for four terms before he stepped down in 1971.

Flemma is the father of Dr. Robert J. Flemma

